

19 MAY 1950

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TOP SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL

1. Western reply to Soviet note on Trieste opposed--US Ambassador Dunn in Rome recommends that the contemplated Western reply to the Soviet note on Trieste be postponed until the views of the Italian Government can be obtained. Dunn believes that any reply at all will "almost certainly" work against the US interest is establishing an atmosphere conducive to the successful negotiation of an Italo-Yugoslav settlement of the Trieste problem. Dunn observes that Italo-Yugoslav relations on this matter have recently improved and that a progressive decrease in the tension may be expected if new elements are not injected into the situation. Dunn believes that any Western reply which did not specifically reaffirm the tripartite declaration of 20 March 1948 (favoring the return of the whole Territory of Trieste to Italy) would jeopardize Italian Foreign Minister Sforza's ability to control his government's approach to the problem. Dunn also points out that a reply that did reaffirm the 20 March 1948 position would offend the Yugoslavs.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in Ambassador Dunn's assessment of the Italian state of mind concerning the Trieste problem.)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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State Dept. review completed

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